

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

LINCOLN'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE - L. LORE 1185  
DRAWER 4A CHURCHES

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# Abraham Lincoln and religion

## Church attendance

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

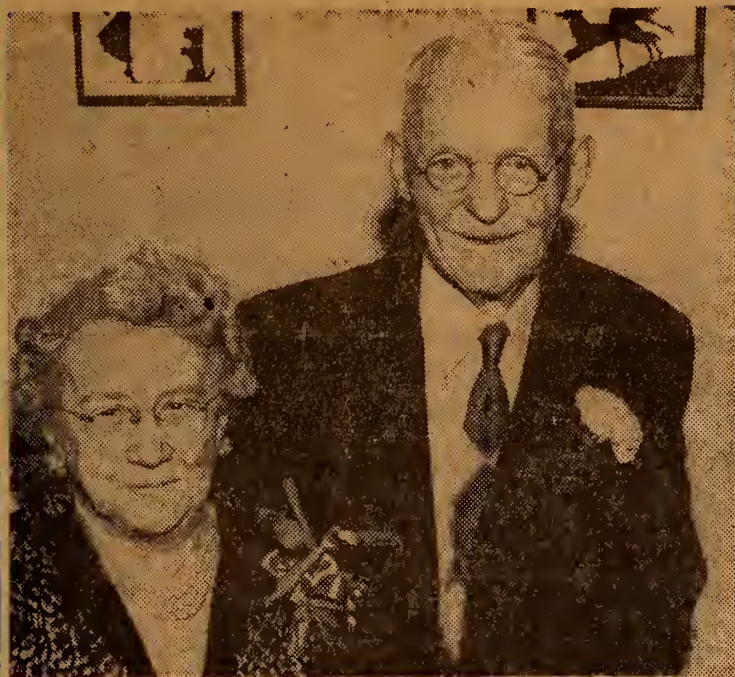
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# Good Afternoon

## A Personal Chat with Art McGinley



—[Hartford Times Photo]

### MR AND MRS. JOSEPH HORSMAN

Monday was their 50th wedding anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Horsman of 108 Bushnell St., but they had planned no formal observance. However, members of the Women's Benefit Association, of which Mrs. Horsman has been a member 55 years, had plans. They paid a surprise visit to the Horsman home Monday evening bearing gifts, among them a purse for Mr. and Mrs. Horsman.

### Lincoln's Church Attendance

No man in history has been the subject of so detailed a study as Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we celebrate today.

Almost countless volumes have been turned out dealing with the many phases of the life of the martyred President, yet there are new stories being told from time to time by the men who are forever searching for such material, often in remote places.

Among the Lincoln authorities is Dr. Louis A. Warren of Fort Wayne, Ind., who is editor of "Lincoln Lore," issued monthly by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. Dr. Warren devotes himself to a microscopic study of Lincoln. When he was in Hartford a few years ago, I told him of my admiration for his subject, and since that time he has sent me much of interest that he has unearthed in searching through records and in going to places where "Honest Abe" had visited, both when President and before he went to the White House.

It was fitting that Dr. Warren's latest budget should have reached this desk on the eve of Lincoln's Birthday.

It deals chiefly with Abraham Lincoln's church attendance, telling of his having attended the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Ill., and later the Tenth Ave. Presbyterian Church in Washington. The Washington edifice recently was rebuilt and in connection with the project the church was presented a valuable original manuscript—the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. . . .

### 'Off Stage' at Midweek Service

Dr. Warren tells of Lincoln often attending midweek service at the Washington church and of the pastor providing a room off the main auditorium that Mr. Lincoln might come and leave without being interrupted by the public.

This room has long been known as the Lincoln Room and thousands have visited it through the years; in the reconstructed

church it is to be called the Lincoln Chapel.

The pew the Lincolns occupied at the church in the national capital was the one President Buchanan had just vacated; the yearly rental was \$50, and Dr. Warren says "records show Mr. Lincoln paid his pew rent promptly." . . .

When Lincoln was in Springfield a merchant who had the neighboring pew fitted it out with new carpets and new cushions, and Mrs. Lincoln urged Mr. Lincoln do the same with their pew, which he did, though it called for something of a tax upon his exchequer.

There was litigation over an organ and Mr. Lincoln represented the church in court, and without fee.

Abraham Lincoln's affiliation with the Presbyterian church was ascribed to Mrs. Lincoln—her ancestors had been clergymen in that faith and had founded a college under that influence in Kentucky.

### Security a Domestic Problem

Dr. Warren quotes from a speech by Lincoln to show security was entirely a problem within our own borders in that day, that the nation was not concerned with attack from abroad, this in refreshing contrast to today's situation. Of this Mr. Lincoln said:

"We are secure from attacks from abroad. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us."

That was 20 years before Lincoln's prophecy was to come true—in the Civil War that nearly tore our nation asunder.

Hartford Conn





# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1185

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 24, 1951

## LINCOLN'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Appropriate orientation is always a desirable quality for any monograph and inasmuch as this bulletin is dated December 24 one would rather anticipate some phase of the religious element in the Lincoln story would be presented. Newspapers conscious of accentuated interest in spiritual values at this Christmas period have been giving some attention to the dedication of the rebuilt Tenth Ave. Presbyterian Church at Washington. A very valuable original manuscript, the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, has recently been presented to the church. The Lincolns having made this communion their church home, while in the capital city, it seems timely to comment briefly on Abraham Lincoln's church attendance at the Presbyterian churches in both Springfield, Ill. and Washington, D. C. where he rented family pews.

It is evident that Abraham Lincoln's association with Presbyterian churches was influenced to some extent by his wife. Rev. John Todd was a famous Presbyterian minister and Mary Todd's grandfather and his brothers had been educated by their clergyman uncle in Virginia. The college the Todds were instrumental in establishing in Lexington, Kentucky was also under Presbyterian influence. A former minister of the Presbyterian church at Lexington, Rev. James Smith, removed to Springfield and Mary Todd Lincoln affiliated with his church, the First Presbyterian. While Abraham Lincoln was not a communicant of the church he was a subscribing member of the congregation.

In 1853 the church was involved in litigation over the payments on an organ and the church minutes book for April 26 makes these notations:

"Met pursuant to adjournment, Doct. John Todd in the chair, meeting opened with Prayer by the Chairman. . . .

"On motion Abram Lincoln, Henry Van Huff and Thomas Lewis were appointed a committee to aid Rev. James Smith in the suit now pending in Presbytery against this Church without power to appoint one of their number to attend the Presbytery.

"No further business appearing, on motion the meeting adjourned."

This same Thomas Lewis who was named on the above mentioned committee with Lincoln served as an elder, a trustee and as treasurer of the church. Some of his reminiscences about contacts with the Lincolns have been preserved. Lewis states that it was shortly after Lincoln had read a religious book *The Christian's Defense* written by Dr. Smith that Lincoln began attending the church. Lewis further stated:

"Soon afterward Mr. Lincoln asked me to rent him a pew, and I offered him one just vacated by Governor Madison, whose term had ended and who was leaving Springfield. He took it and occupied it regularly with Mrs. Lincoln, and though she had been an episcopalian, she joined our church at the first communion and I confidently believe Mr. Lincoln would have joined too had he been there." Mr. Lewis noted that Mr. Lincoln was away from home on legal business at the time and he concludes: "So he never joined the church, but he gave liberally toward its support."

The reminiscences of Mrs. Annie C. Fox which refer directly to the church attendance of Abraham Lincoln at Springfield is also of interest:

"I came to Springfield in 1856. My husband, Benjamin Fox, had been engaged in business here several years before that time. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Fox were personal friends. They attended the same church, the First Presbyterian. The building now stands opposite the Chicago and

Alton Railroad depot. Mr. Lincoln's pew was just across the aisle from Mr. Fox's. In honor of my coming, Mr. Fox had fitted up his pew with new carpets and cushions. The first Sunday I attended church in Springfield Mr. Lincoln and I were introduced to each other. I remember Mr. Lincoln saying that he had wondered why Mr. Fox was fitting up his pew so fine, but he understood it now. Mrs. Lincoln, who was present, suggested that Mr. Lincoln himself might do a little fixing. It was not long after that before Mr. Lincoln's pew had a new carpet and new cushions.

"Mr. Lincoln was a regular attendant at church. He always paid close attention to the sermons and took an active part in the services."

Lincoln students are familiar with the contents of a letter written by Mrs. Lincoln to Mrs. Melvin at Springfield a few weeks after the Lincolns arrival in Washington. Mr. Melvin was chairman of the Pew Committee at the First Presbyterian Church and Mrs. Lincoln made this request in her letter:

"I had intended requesting Mr. Melvin to have given me a promise that on our return to Springfield we could be able to secure our particular pew to which I was very much attached and which we occupied some ten years. May I hope that we may be able to do so."

Just how soon the Lincolns started attending the New York Ave. Presbyterian Church at Washington we do not know but it would appear before the month of March 1861 came to a close they were happily situated in their new church home.

A deacon of the congregation recalls having taken "the plat of the church over to the White House for inspection. Mrs. Lincoln looked it over and selected the pew, which strangely enough, happened to be the one Mr. Buchanan had just vacated. The annual rental of the pew at the time was fifty dollars a year." Occupancy of the pew began in March 1861 and continued up to the time of Mr. Lincoln's assassination. The trustee's record book reveals that Mr. Lincoln's pew rent was paid promptly.

This is the same pew which has been preserved as a memorial and has become one of the best known religious shrines in Washington. It has been an established custom to invite the President residing at the White House to occupy the Lincoln pew on the Sunday preceding Lincoln's birthday each year.

On many visits to the church the editor of Lincoln Lore has been impressed with the emphasis placed on the significance of what is known as The Lincoln Room to be designated as the Lincoln Chapel in the newly constructed church. Apparently the President's church attendance was not confined to Sunday as the tradition seems to be well established that he often attended the mid-week service of the church. To assure him privacy Dr. Gurley, the minister, provided a seat for him in a small room leading out of the general assembly room on the first floor so that he might come and leave without being interrupted by the public.

The testimony of William Henry Roberts relative to Lincoln's church attendance is of interest. He states:

"Entering the service of the U. S. Government in the fall of 1863, the first sabbath of my sojourn in Washington City I went to the New York Ave. Presby. Church. When the time for the long prayer came, according to immemorial usage in many Presbyterian congregations, a number of the men stood up for prayer and among those upright figures I noticed in particular that of the President of the United States."





22 Jan 69

Dear Doctor Mc Murtry:

I am taking the Liberty of sending you  
Copy - verbatim - from DC Star <sup>copy</sup> on  
Gen. Tins ~~burial~~ <sub>interment</sub> funeral. I trust you'd

like the definite information and  
reassurance that Lincoln did ENTER

Epiphany Church AND REMAIN THEREIN  
during the entire funeral service, Epiphany  
is still one of our distinguished and old  
downtown churches; ~~and~~ I feel quite

sure is architecturally the same today as  
it was during Lincoln's funeral. I shall  
be by the church soon and see

if I can pick up some sort of pictures  
of pictures of the exterior and interior.

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875



22 Jan 69 - To Doctor McMurtry

P2

However I shall not do this until after

12 February; as I realize you will not

be back in your office for a while.

However it is on my agenda and I

fully expect to take care of this (I used to

be active in Epiphany) I hope you

like the Lander-Epiphany-DC story.

In the meantime I'll see if I can

find you some pictures even if I have to

go downtown and make a few snapshots - OK?

as ever Neil

Best wishes for your family and your office  
staff (don't wear a Deacon) Long may you all  
wave.

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in a cursive script. The text is heavily faded and illegible due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be a single page of writing, possibly a letter, given the informal nature of the script. The text is arranged in several lines, with some words appearing to be underlined or emphasized. The overall tone is that of a personal or official communication from the late 19th or early 20th century.



Wednesday 22 Jan 69

Dear Doctor Mc Murly

Among notable downtown (DC) churches is  
"Epiphany" Episcopal Protestant Founded 1842.  
about 1860, -- during the rectorship of Dr. Chas  
Hall, (who was one of the clergymen in the  
East Room of The White House 19 April '65;)--  
The church was enlarged to twice its size.

Doctor Randolph McKim, who during the Civil War  
served as CSA Chaplain, -- became its rector  
in 1888 and served until July 15 1920.

David Rankin Barber (I believe he is deceased now)  
told me - quite a number of yrs ago - that Chas  
Hall was an "Emphatically outspoken" PRO-  
-SOUTHERNER and had to be "called down" and  
warned several times by Stanton's secret service  
operatives. I never tried to verify this and I  
shall sometime in February 69

Wednesday 22

I recall reading somewhere that Epiphany was  
 Jeff Davis' church home whenever he was here in  
 DC, Jeff Davis was here in DC!

in Congress	{	March 1845	June 1846
IN SENATE		May 1847	Sept 1851
"		March 1857	Jan 1861
SEC of War		March 53	March 1857

His home residence here in DC was about  
 a block or two west of the White House, (1800  
 Block of G) St, NW - a nice walk in  
 nice weather - less than a mile, to Epiphany

for a good many years, after 1861, Epiphany kept  
 a silver plate on the Davis pew - However!  
 Tourists stole them so often - so many times, the  
 Church could no longer afford to replace  
 them.





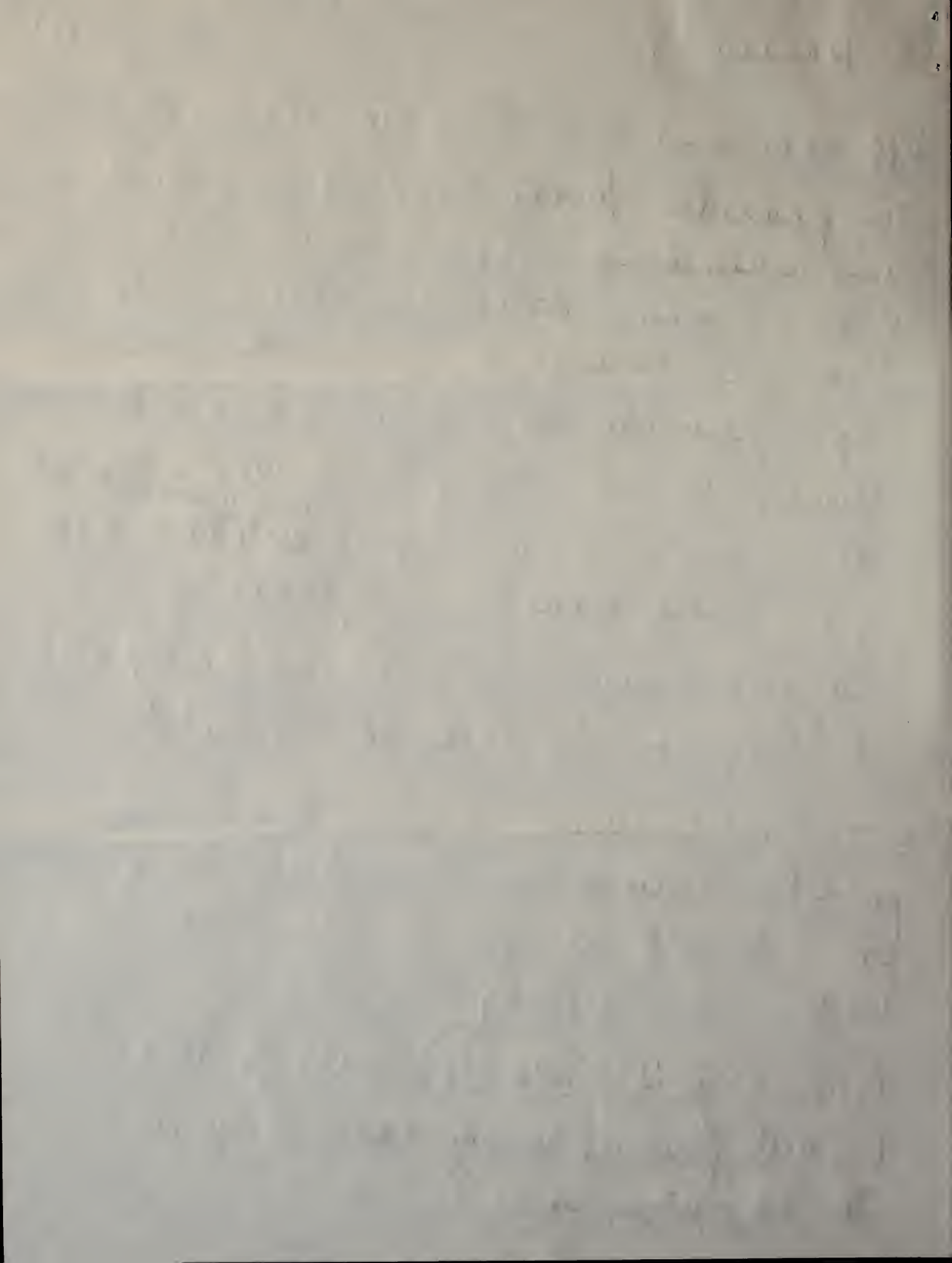
22 January 65

111

Jeff Davis was - as he was 1853-1857  
responsible for the construction of the (2  
~~new Senate wings~~ and) the dome. It was  
Davis who demanded that Sculptor  
Crawford remove the ("Frissonian") phrygian  
Cap from the Statue about 1862  
Hoisted to the top of the dome (2 Dec 1862)  
Because it was argued <sup>THAT IT WAS THE</sup> symbol  
of a liberated slave (or a symbol of  
"Emancipation" (?) . Crawford replaced  
the "Frissonian" Cap with a "Crest"!

So! we have Davis McKim and  
possibly Holmes who were enthusiastically  
pro - slavery as parishioners and  
leaders at Epiphany.

Lincoln WIS Enter the Church for Free  
Lauder's funeral; (and of course remains  
for the entire service).



22 Jan 69

3  
4  
However, <sup>THO</sup> Hurl is an Expert, and a reliable,  
"Picture Editor" He most certainly was in  
error about the Identity of the ship with  
the "Sailors doing gymnastics on the spar"





(Copied from)

UNACCL

DC STAR March 6 1862

FUNERAL OF GEN FREDERICK LANDER  
6 MARCH 1862

Brig Gen Lander died at Camp Chase in Western Virginia. The immediate cause of his death being diphtheria. His remains were brought to the city and reached here about 2 AM yesterday morning. The body having been placed in a wooden case, with a mattress, and brought sixty miles over rough country roads, and more than seventy miles by railroad, was very much disfigured decomposition having rapidly advanced. Drs Brown and Alexander at once proceeded to embalm the body, and this morning it had changed very much for the better, the discoloration being partly removed, and no offensive odor perceptible.

TH

The undertaker Dr Brown having arrayed the body for burial, it was this morning at

(Copied from )

INNOCENT

DC STAR March 6 1862

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HP

The Undertaker Dr Brown having arrayed the body for burial, it was this morning about 9 o'clock, removed to the residence of Secretary Chase at the corner of 6th and E streets. Two of the deceased Generals Body-Guard, who accompanied the remains to this city, were placed on duty at the door. During the morning hundreds of citizens and strangers called to take a look at the deceased,

BUT WERE INFORMED THAT MRS LANDER WAS  
~~WAS~~ WITH THE BODY OF HER  
DECEASED HUSBAND, AND THAT NO ONE  
EXCEPT THE INTIMATE PERSONAL FRIENDS  
OF THE DECEASED WOULD BE  
ADMITTED.

H

SHORTLY BEFORE 12 O'CLOCK THE  
DOORS OF THE MANSION WERE  
OPENED, AND A GREAT MANY PERSONS  
WERE ADMITTED TO VIEW THE BODY.  
AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE THE  
PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF HIS  
CABINET, GENERAL McDOWELL, GENERAL  
McCLELLAN, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES  
AND A HOST OF OTHER DISTINGUISHED  
PERSONS CIVIL AND MILITARY.

H

THE NOBLE FORM OF THE DECEASED  
GENERAL, CLOTHED IN FULL UNIFORM,  
WITH SASH AND SWORD, AND LAY IN A  
COFFIN WHICH WAS COVERED <sup>WITH</sup> BLACK  
CLOTH AND MOUNTED WITH SILVER. ON  
THE LID OF THE COFFIN WAS A SILVER  
PLATE BEARING THE INSCRIPTION

"Wm W Lander Brig Gen  
Died March 2nd 1862 At Camp Chase  
Virginia.

AGE 39 YEARS

BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE."

H >



A few minutes after 12 the coffin was closed, and was then brought out and placed upon a caisson. It was covered with a large American flag on which was laid the sword and cap of the deceased; also a beautiful wreath of white flowers. The funeral procession was formed as follows - the military escort being in columns.

104th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry with reversed arms preceded by a fine band  
Company A Second Artillery (Captain Tidnus Battery) six pieces.

A Squadron of Cavalry - two companies of Col Rush's Pennsylvania) Lancers  
Brig Gen Silas Casey and staff  
officiating clergy and clergy of the district

Full Beanoes, in Carriages -  
Hon F.P. Blair, Hon Henry Wilson,  
Maj Gen G.B. McClellan, Brigadier Gen S. Williams.

TP > Carlson with the Body  
Full Beanoes in Carriages - Hon John F. Porter, Hon Charles Sumner, Brig Gen R.B. Marey, Col T.M. Key, A.D.C.

THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE DECEASED, THE ELCOCKH MAINE REGIMENT VOLUNTARY INFANTRY WITH SIDE ARMS.



London

4

(With Sigsbee) in Dress Uniform, STAFF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY, OFFICERS OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS, SURVIVORS OF THE WAR OF 1812, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND DISTRICT JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, SENATORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SENATE, FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SUITES, GOVERNORS OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, SPEAKER AND CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUSTICES AND OFFICERS OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS. MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMISSION, CITIZENS AND STRANGERS, THE MEMBERS OF THE DECEASED GENERAL'S BODY GUARD, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIS REMAINS INTO THIS CITY, ABOUT TWENTY IN NUMBER, WERE FORMED ON EACH SIDE OF THE BODY, WHICH WAS ALSO GUARDED BY THE ARTILLERYMEN ATTACHED TO THE COLUMN IN WHICH IT WAS BORNE

TH

THE PROCESSION BEING FORMED, MOVED FROM THE RESIDENCE OF SECRETARY CHASE, CORNER OF SIXTH AND E STREET, THROUGH E TO 13TH, TO G, AND WAS FORMED IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

TH

THE SIDEWALKS AND WINDOWS ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE PROCESSION WERE THROGGED WITH THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS, A LARGE PROPORTION OF WHOM WERE LADIES TH

5 LANDER<sup>B</sup>

TH

THE church was crowded. THE BODY WAS BROUGHT IN PRECEDED BY THE PALKBARENS, AMONG WHOM ~~WAS~~ WAS GENERAL ~~McClellan~~ McClellan, HIS FACE SHADED BY GRIEF, AS HE GAZED UPON THE COFFIN WHICH CONTAINED A DEAR FRIEND AND COMPANION IN ARMS.

TH

FOLLOWING THE COFFIN CAME THE WIDOW OF THE GALLANT OFFICER, ~~McClellan~~ LEANING UPON THE ARM OF SECRETARY CHASE. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY SECRETARY STANTON, ACCOMPANYING ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF SECRETARY CHASE. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET HAVING ENTERED, THE TALL FORM OF THE PRESIDENT WAS SEEN, AND AFTER HIM CAME GENERAL McDOWELL AND THE OTHER ARMY OFFICERS.

TH

IN THE MEANTIME THE ORGAN AND CHOIR OF THE CHURCH JOINED IN A SOLEMN DIRGE. THE AUDIENCE HAVING BEEN SEATED REV BISHOP PARKE, OF RHODE ISLAND, PROCEEDED WITH THE IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE EPISCOPAL DENOMINATION, BEING ASSISTED BY REVEREND DOCTOR WALL OF THE CHURCH.

TR

(Parke)

7  
Lanox

6  
Lanox

#

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICES  
THE PROCESSION REFORMED AND MARCHED  
TO F ST, TO 14TH, THROUGH 14TH TO  
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, TO NEW JERSEY  
AVENUE, THROUGH NEW JERSEY AVENUE TO  
THE RAILROAD DEPOT.

#

WE HAVE Seldom ON ANY OCCASION  
SEEN A DENSER THROUN ON PENNSYLVANIA  
AVENUE THAN WAS GATHERED TO SEE THE  
PROCESSION. THE FLAGS ALL OVER THE  
CITY WERE DISPLAYED AT HALFMAST  
THROUGHOUT THE MORNING. ~~DEER~~ AND  
OUR CITIZENS MANIFESTED SINCERE  
OF RESPECT FOR THE HERO WHO HAD SO  
GALLANTLY SACRIFICED HIS LIFE IN THE  
SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY.

#

THERE IS A TEAR FOR ALL WHO DIE  
A MOURNER OVER THE HOMELESS GRAVE  
BUT NATIONS SWEEP THE FOREIGN DRY  
AND TRIUMPH WEeps  
AND TRIUMPH WEeps ABOVE THE GRAVE  
(# 30)

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A MOURNER FOR THE HOMELESS GRAVE  
BUT NATIONS SWEEP THE FOREIGN DRY  
AND TRIUMPH WEeps WEeps ABOVE THE GRAVE

# 30



of Secrecy, removed to the residence  
of both and E Street. Two of the  
deceased persons body found, was  
accompanied the remains to this city,  
where placed on duty at the door.  
During the morning hundreds of  
Citizens and strangers called to  
take a look at the deceased.



THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1983

*Religion*

## White House

# Presidents and Churchgoing, a Sensitive Subject

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 22 — As a President who does not hesitate to invoke the divinity of Jesus and even identify it with his policy in the East-West struggle, Ronald Reagan has come under closer scrutiny lately because he is not a regular Sunday churchgoer.

His critics have taken repeated note of this fact, despite the explanation provided by the White House that the President, who has already been shot once in this town, does not want to disrupt local congregations. If the President attended services, worshippers would have to tolerate searches for weapons and the constant eye-on-the-sparrow glares of Secret Service agents.

"It's Ole Pastor Reagan again," a former Carter Administration official, Pat Derian, complained in an editorial column the other day, juxtaposing the President's churchgoing

The American politician's mixed blessing from the public watch on his beliefs was summarized early in the Republic by President John Adams: "I have been a churchgoing animal for 76 years and this has been alleged as proof of my hypocrisy."

Mr. Reagan has not hesitated to wade into religious subjects on the hustings: In 1980, campaigning for "that old time religion" before a convention of evangelical Christians, he endorsed the notion that the nation's schoolchildren should learn the biblical theory of creation just as they learn the scientific theory of evolution.

The range of spiritual activity at the White House includes the tableau of President Nixon, shortly before his resignation, kneeling in prayer with Henry A. Kissinger. Less celebrated was the spirit-seeking seance that Abraham Lincoln once tolerated in

gion-steeped rhetoric and his political strength among certain Christian groups. "He is the first President in modern times to have been divorced, with no apparent political price, and he champions the cause of the family."

### Jefferson and His Prayer Book

George Washington himself exhibited the first sensitivity on this subject when, with no mention of it in the new Constitution, he ad libbed the words, "So help me God," in taking the oath of office. In those days it was less controversial to be a simple deist as Washington and Jefferson were, since the Revolution involved breaking certain ties of religious as well as political orthodoxy. But even then there were critics. Jefferson, an anticleric who prized the ethics of Jesus, was seen carrying a red prayer book one Sunday and was asked by a skeptical citizen where he was going.

"To church," he replied, according



of Securing to the residents  
of the city and the corner  
of the streets. Two of the  
deceased persons body-guard, who  
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"It's Ole Pastor Reagan again," a former Carter Administration official, Pat Doran, complained in an editorial column the other day, juxtaposing the President's churchgoing record with his latest speech in which he invoked Christ and denounced the Soviet Union.

"He is being robbed of the benefit of corporate worship services," a friend of the President, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, said after visiting Mr. Reagan last week and reflecting a concern about the lack of group worship. "The Reagans are religious people and they need the leadership strength that comes from corporate worship. Maybe worship services could be brought into the White House, as Mr. Nixon did. Somebody needs to make a priority of this."

**Theodore Roosevelt's Lesson**  
"The President doesn't wear his religion on his sleeve," said one White House official. As a candidate, Mr. Reagan could be seen at Sunday services, but since he became an incumbent, security precautions have become much stronger, his aides say, particularly with the rumors a few years ago of Libya's "hit squads."

By all the history of the office, the symbolic and actual roles of religion in the White House show the inconsistency and occasional volatility of politics itself. Theodore Roosevelt, the popular President and outgoing Christian who sang loudest in the choir of the Grace Reformed Church every Sunday, discovered how sensitive a subject public faith can be when he had a new penny designed. For esthetic reasons, he left the inscription, "In God We Trust." After thunderous popular protest, he retreated with all the fervor he once showed in advancing up San Juan Hill.

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Lucy W. Hayes barred alcohol, tobacco and dancing at White House.

the Red Room at the request of his wife. Lincoln later said the seance "sounded very much like the talk of my Cabinet." Lincoln, though not a formal Christian, may have been the most religious of Presidents. "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go," he said.

The record for kneeling may go to the Administration of Rutherford B. Hayes, who prayed every morning with his wife, a righteous woman nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy" because she barred alcohol, tobacco and dancing at the White House.

Historians list no clear-cut atheist on the Presidential roll. James Madison was among the more idle of a Sunday, but he is well remembered for his

Rutherford B. Hayes knelt every morning in prayer.

constitutional vigilance in protecting the citizen's freedom of conscience. One of the most active on Sundays was James A. Garfield, who, like Mr. Reagan, was a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Garfield would take to the pulpit on Sundays and preach. His assassin was a religious fanatic who said God had guided him to the deed.

**Wilson Judged by Freud**

Mr. Reagan has said that being shot gave him a much stronger sense of God's presence in life. Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, the leader of the Disciples of Christ, has not hesitated to criticize Mr. Reagan, both for his policies toward the poor and his latest mixing of nuclear politics and Christ. But Dr. Teegarden does not doubt Mr. Reagan's individual faith.

Of all the trials of the Presidential soul, Woodrow Wilson was unusual in being judged by Sigmund Freud himself. The psychoanalyst questioned in his writings whether the President had some sort of Messianic complex. John F. Kennedy's problem was how to protect the anonymity of the confessional box. The first Roman Catholic President was once said to have arranged to go to confession with a phalanx of Catholic Secret Service agents, similarly penitential, to give himself the average sinner's chance of going unrecognized by the priest.

In this special branch of Presidential history, Mr. Reagan may be noteworthy for paying no apparent political price in not going to church. "He covers himself quite well in other ways," said Richard J. Mouw, a professor of political philosophy at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., who is fascinated by the President's reli-

gion-steeped rhetoric and his political strength among certain Christian groups. "He is the first President in modern times to have been divorced, with no apparent political price, and he champions the cause of the family."

**Jefferson and His Prayer Book**

George Washington himself exhibited the first sensitivity on this subject when, with no mention of it in the new Constitution, he ad libbed the words, "So help me God," in taking the oath of office. In those days it was less controversial to be a simple deist as Washington and Jefferson were, since the Revolution involved breaking certain ties of religious as well as political orthodoxy. But even then there were critics. Jefferson, an anticleric who prized the ethics of Jesus, was seen carrying a red prayer book one Sunday and was asked by a skeptical citizen where he was going.

"To church," he replied, according to the historian John McCollister. "Why, yes," the President, you don't believe a word of it," the citizen said. "Sir, no nation has yet existed or been governed without religion," Jefferson replied. "I, as the chief magistrate of this nation, am bound to give it the sanction of my example."

Not all Presidents felt this way. Ulysses S. Grant is rated one of the least religious Presidents, although he trailed his wife to church some Sundays. The tale of his deathbed christening as a Methodist is told in Mr. McCollister's book, "... so help me God." It concludes with a sprinkle of holy water as Grant lay near coma but then suddenly awakened to comment to the clergyman, "I ask, take, you surmise me."

**Eisenhower's Late Baptism**

In contrast, Dwight D. Eisenhower felt the need for a more formal Christian ritual once he was President. Two weeks after his inauguration, the President, born into a Kansas sect that did not practice infant christening, had himself baptized as he knelt at the font in the National Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Reagan may be echoing one of his heroes, Calvin Coolidge, in complaining lately that some American clergy risk the sin of pride in condemning both sides equally in the arms race. In his day, Mr. Coolidge showed concern with new Gospel interpretations. "I think most of the clergy today," he said, "are preaching socialism."

Friends say Mr. Reagan enjoys church. Indeed, one of his few church visits as President, he was the picture of joyful worship as he stood in the First Presbyterian Church in Hurdville, Tenn. May he put on his reading glasses and Mrs. Reagan slipped her arm around his waist as they stood with the congregation and sang. "For Christ there is no East or West."



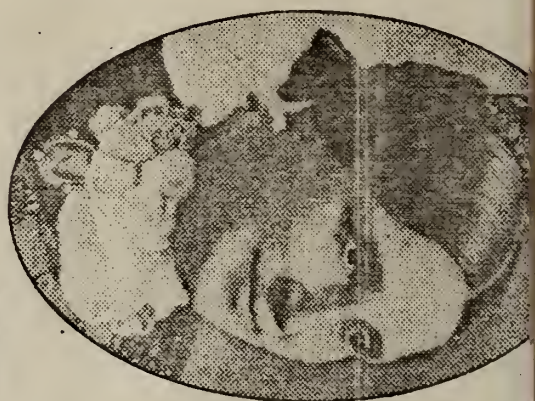
#### Soviet Union.

"He is being robbed of the benefit of corporate worship services," a friend of the President, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, said after visiting Mr. Reagan last week and reflecting a concern about the lack of group worship. "The Reagans are religious people and they need the leadership strength that comes from corporate worship. Maybe worship services could be brought into the White House, as Mr. Nixon did. Somebody needs to make a priority of this."

#### Theodore Roosevelt's Lesson

"The President doesn't wear his religion on his sleeve," said one White House official. As a candidate, Mr. Reagan could be seen at Sunday services, but since he became an incumbent, security precautions have become much stronger, his aides say, particularly with the rumors a few years ago of Libyan "hit squads."

By all the history of the office, the symbolic and actual roles of religion in the White House show the inconsistency and occasional volatility of politics itself. Theodore Roosevelt, the popular President and outgoing Christian who sang loudest in the choir of the Grace Reformed Church every Sunday, discovered how sensitive a subject public faith can be when he had a new penny designed. For esoteric reasons, he left off the inscription, "In God We Trust." After thunderous popular protest, he retreated with all the fervor he once showed in advancing up San Juan Hill.



Associated Press

Lucy W. Hayes barred alcohol, tobacco and dancing at White House.

the Red Room at the request of his wife. Lincoln later said the seance "sounded very much like the talk of my Cabinet." Lincoln, though not a formal Christian, may have been the most religious of Presidents. "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go," he said.

The record for kneeling may go to the Administration of Rutherford B. Hayes, who prayed every morning with his wife, a righteous woman nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy" because she barred alcohol, tobacco and dancing at the White House.

Historians list no clear-cut atheist on the Presidential roll. James Madison was among the more idle of a Sunday, but he is well remembered for his

constitutional vigilance in protecting the citizen's freedom of conscience. One of the most active on Sundays was James A. Garfield, who, like Mr. Reagan was a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Garfield would take to the pulpit on Sundays and preach. His assassin was a religious fanatic who said God had guided him to the deed.

#### Wilson Judged by Freud

Mr. Reagan has said that being shot gave him a much stronger sense of God's presence in life. Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, the leader of the Disciples of Christ, has not hesitated to criticize Mr. Reagan, both for his policies toward the poor and his latest mixing of nuclear politics and Christ. But Dr. Teegarden does not doubt Mr. Reagan's individual faith.

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